THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Sir, the information is given in the statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Shifting of telephone is to be done within 15 days after the formalities are completed by the applicant and the area is technically feasible.

The position of pending cases of OBs., for shifts is regularly monitored at the level of Area GMs / Dist. Head / Telecom Head Quarters to avoide undue delays. Remedial action is taken wherever necessary.

Statement

Policy of Shifts of Telephones

1. (a) In multi-exchange areas the shifts of telephones other than those provided under OYT scheme are normally allowed if the date of initial application for the new telephone connection falls within the release period of the specific category pertaining to the exchange to which it is required to be shifted or if the telephone has worked for a period of atleast three years in the exchange areas from where it is required to be shifted. The same criteria applies to shifts on All India Basis also.

(b) In case of telephone connections provided under OYT scheme, shifts will be allowed either if the date of initial application of registration falls within the release period of OYT registration pertaining to the exchange to which it is required to be shifted or if the telephone has worked for a period of atleast six months in the exchange areas from where it is required to be shifted. The same criteria applies to shifts on All India Basis also.

2. In case of telephones provided under TATKAL category, local shift will be permitted without any precondition. However, shifts under TATKAL scheme will not be permitted on All India Basis.

Normally telephones within the city are shifted within 15 days except where area is technically non-feasible. In case of intercity shifts, the time taken depends upon as to when the surrender produces the surrender certificate and makes necessary deposits etc. at the new station. Once the formalirties are completed, it takes the same time as for an inter exchanges shift provided the area is technically feasible.

Constitution of Telephone Advisory Committee

848. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the regions in Gujarat par icularly in Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara and Panch Mahal where District Telephone Advisory Committees have been constituted ;

(b) which are the districts where such Advisory Committees are yet to be constituted as on date ;

(c) whether the Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies are also consulted at the time of constitution of these Committees ; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) The Tele-

com / Telephone Advisory Committees have been reconstituted for Gujarat State, Bhuj and Bulsar Telephone Districts.

Telephone Advisory Committee for the following Telecom. Districts in Gujarat are in the process of being reconstituted :

1. Bhavnagar
2. Jam Nagar
3. Junagarh
4. Mehsana
5. Nadiad
6. Surat
7. Vadodara
8. Ahmedabad
9. Rajkot

(c) and (d) Representation from various local bodies and Publicmen including the recommendations of M.P.'s and M.L.A.'s are taken into account by the Minister of State for Communications before TZCs are constituted / reconstituted.

Distribution of Postal Stationery

849. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to allow the private sector to get into the distribution of postal stationery;

(b) whether Government have also granted official status to the Rs. 500 crore courier industry;

(c) what is the total revenue earned from the Speed Post Service during the financial year 1993-94;

(d) what are the expansion plans in respect of Speed Post Service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) A scheme of licensed postal agents already exists.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Total revenue earned during the year 1993-94 is Rs. 50,12,78,624/-.

(d) The expansion of Speed Post Service is an on being process and the service is provided on the potential viability and operational feasibility.

Satellite telecom system by NRI Group

850. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any NRI group has sought permission to set up a satellite communication network system in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Matrix Paging (I) Pvt. Ltd. which is promoted by a group of NRIs has applied for a licence to operate 64 kbps VSAT service within the country using INSAT Satellite in the extended C-band. The Company has been issued a Letter of Intent. This is as per the Government policy to franchise 64 kbps VATS Service on INSAT on a non-exclusive basis to Indian registered Companies.

Shortage of post cards

851. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINNDE:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post cards are in short supply so much so